

Message Text

SECRET

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67

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

/065 W

----- 068219

R 071155Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9659

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

USSAG/7AF NKP THAI

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 4156

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS,CB, VS

SUBJ: VIETNAMESE POSTPONE TRIPARTITE MEETING

1. EMBASSY AND MEDTC THIS MORNING LEARNED THAT VIETNAMESE MILITARY HAVE DECLINED TO ATTEND TRIPARTITE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR PHNOM PENH ON MARCH 7, CITING SECURITY SITUATION IN PHNOM PENH AS THE REASON. MG HUNT, DEPUTY COMUSSAG, WHO WAS IN SAIGON, MADE A VALIANT EFFORT TO PERSUADE VIETNAMESE DELEGATION TO COME, AND GENERAL PALMER, WHO SPOKE TO THE COLONEL IN CHARGE OF VNAF OPERATIONS BY PHONE DENIED VIGOROUSLY LATTER'S UNDERSTANDING THAT MORTARS WERE FALLING ON POCHENTONG AIRFIELD. VIETNAMESE APPARENTLY GAVE THE XPLANATION THAT THEY WERE RELUCTANT TO RISK A NUMBER OF HIGH-RANKING OFFICERS IN ONE AIRCRAFT TO PHNOM PENH.

2. THIS OCCURRED ONCE BEFORE LAST YEAR AT A TIME WHEN AN ENEMY ROCKET HAD LANDED ON EMG HEADQUARTERS, SO THE VIETNAMESE DECISION IS NOT UNPRECEDENTED. ANOTHER FACTOR IS THAT WE HAVE LEARNED FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT TWO VIETNAMESE C-130'S ARE DUE AT POCHENTONG TO REMOVE SOME EMBASSY PERSONNEL, EMBASSY DEPENDENTS, EMBASSY PROPERTY, AND DOUBTLESS A NUMBER OF OTHER VIETNAMESE NATIONALS WHO

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MAY BE WILLING TO BE EVACUATED. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE

VIETNAMESE MILITARY PREFERRED TO STAY OUT OF THE WAY OF
THIS OPERATION.
DEAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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